Auction Sale is always in favour of the highest bidder of public auction and the bids considered below the market price are rejected;

(d) Yes, Sir.

(c) Following measures are being adopted to avoid any nexus between buyers and officials:—

(i) The Sale of scrap is conducted through public auctions or through open tender.

(ii) At the time of delivery of scrap, representatives of three departments, viz. Stock-holder, Accounts and security Departments are required to witness correct delivery of the sold lot.

(iii) Periodical/surprise checks are conducted by independent supervisors as also Vigilance Organisation of the Railways during the process of delivery of the sold lots.

(iv) Senior Officers from Headquarters monitor rates realised in auctions in the nearby locations as also market trend of scrap rates, etc.

Surcharge collected by the Indian Railways

3946. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the analytical news-report which appeared in the Times of India dated 10th July, 1992 by the Syndicate columnist, Pushpa Girimaji, on the unjustified surcharges collected by the Indian Railways;

(b) whether such unfair imposts and trade practices are proposed to be withdrawn from Government enterprises; and

(c) whether such cases would be referred suo moto by the consumer National Protection Council or the Department to the Consumer Grievances Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are no unfair imposts and trade practices in levying Supplementary Charge on Superfast trains.

(c) Does not arise.

Employment on compassionate grounds in Railways

3947. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a deliberate delay on the part of the officials in FA & CAO, South Central Railway, Secunderabad in providing employment to the wards of the deceased employees on compassionate grounds;

(b) the number of persons who were provided employment in the last two years in respect of Class IV posts;

(c) the number of cases where there was a delay for more than three months or six months; and

(d) by when they are likely to be absorbed to mitigate their hardships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Accidents involving suburban local trains

3948. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last three years, many accidents involving suburban local trains have taken place over the Central Railway and Western Railway Network in and around Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that once again the suburban services of both Central and Western Railways get frequently disorganised and cause great inconvenience to the suburban commuters in Bombay;